



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/690,489

10/21/2003

Michael Whitsett

W04-1041

5078

27257

7590

07/22/2008

KEATY PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

THOMAS S. KEATY

2 CANAL STREET

2140 WORLD TRADE CENTER

NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

EXAMINER

SAFAVI, MICHAEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3637

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/22/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Box 3: Contd. Newly proposed language to claim 25 requires further consideration with respect to 35 USC § 112, (and perhaps 35 USC § 102 and/or 35 USC § 103 in light of the change in language to lines 7-9 and 17-19 of claim 25). Upon a cursory review amended claim 25 does not appear to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. For example, it would not be clear as to what a “non-circular transition portion” is versus a “joint portion”. Lines 7-9 and 17-19 as proposed amended do not appear clear with respect to the elements recited therein and their particular relationship between one another and within the claimed invention.

Box 5: Contd. Applicant’s response has overcome the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 22-28 over claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,814,525.

Box 13: Contd. The terminal disclaimer filed on June 16, 2008 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,814,525 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Safavi whose telephone number is (571) 272-7046. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Safavi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3637

M. Safavi
July 10, 2008